The Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Lodhi Road, New Delhi also has sanctioned some house buliding loans in these States, and improved Chulhas have been incorporated in the •design of many houses for which loan has been sanctioned.

Cooking gas connections

*297. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state-.

(a) what is the total out-put of cook ing gas in the country;

(b) which are the companies in the public and the private sectors which have so far been authorised to supply cooking gas connections to the general public in the country;

(c) whether these companies have been allotted specified areas;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) how many gas connections have been issued to the general public in the country through the above companies so far;

(f) how many gas connections were issued so far against the usual bookings and how many against priority sanctions; and

(g) what is the position of supply of cooking gas connections in the Union Territory of Delhi indicating how manv gas connections have been given so far and how many applications are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA); (a) The indigenous production of LPG during 1985-86 is estimated at 1,187,000 MT.

(b) The .marketing of LPG is done only by three public sector oil companies. *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total number of LPG consumers at present is approximately 99 lakhs.

(f) The number of pnoiity connections released is a very small proportion of the total connections released in a year.

(g) Release of new LPG connections in Delhi is done under the annual all-India customer enrolment programme of the oil companies. As against a consumer strength of approximately 7.3 lakhs in Delhi, the present number of persons on the waiting list is approximately 5.12 lakhs.

Casual employees in Mahboobnagar Tele-communication division

*298. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA KRISHNA; Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the numer of casual emp-loyees appointed in Mahboobnagar, Andhra Pfadesh Telecommunication Division during the last three years; and

(b) how many of them are local can> didates belonging to that district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Information in respect of (a) and (b) is being collected and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

Bbarat Heavy Elecirieals Limited

*299. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether the manufacturing capacity of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is fully utilised, if not, what are reasons therefor and the extent to which it is not utilised; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to fully utilise the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) During the Seventh Plan BHEL is expected to achieve capacity utilisation of 48 per cent in the case of thermal sets and 31 per cent in the case of hydro sets. Capacity utilisation is largely linked with the investment envisaged in the power sector.

(b) Product diversification and strengthening of services & spares supply for the Power Sector are among the measures being taken to improve capacity utilisation.

Industrial Growth rate

*300 .SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) what is the growth rate achieved by industry during the last financial year;

(b) the growth rate targeted for the current financial year; and

(c) whether it is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF I HE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (3) to (c) According to C.S.O. Index of Industrial Production, a rate of growth of 6.5 per cent was achieved during 1984-85 over 1983-84.

The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) envisages an average annual rate of growth of 8 per cent in industrial production. The period April-August 1985, compared with April-August 1984, registered a growth of 6.2 per cent in industrial production.

High cost of life saving drugs

@2099. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of life saving drugs in the country has been increased many-folds in the recent, months by the drug manufacturing com panies and have become outof reach c.l the common man; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reduce the prices of life saving drugs to reasonable levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI CHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prices of over 70 per cent of the medicines are controlled under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 197* which was issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

विजयपुर, मध्य प्रदेश में निर्माणाधीन खाद के कारखाने के लिये गैस पाइप लाइन का बिछाया जाना

@@2100. **श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल :** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के गुना जिले में विजयनगर में निर्माणाधीन खाद के कारखाने के लिये बिछायी जाने वाली गैस की पाइप लाइन हेतु अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय टेंडर आमंत्रित किये गये थे;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इससे पूर्व यह गैस-पाइप-लाइन एक भारतीय कम्पनी द्वारा बिछायी जानी थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो पूर्व निर्णय को बदलने के क्या कारण हैं तथा उक्त कारखाने के पूरा होने तथा गैस-पाइप लाइन बिछाये जाने में कितना विलम्ब होने की संभावना है;

(घ) क्या उक्त कार्य के लिये अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय टेंडर आमंत्रित कर लिये गये हैं तथा उन्हें स्वीकार कर लिया गया है ; और

@@ पूर्वतः अतारांकित प्रश्न 1297, 29 नवम्बर, 1985 से स्थानान्तरित ।